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EDUCATION AND THE FLORIDA SPACE TASK FORCE

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ABSTRACT

This analysis of the rise and decline of the Florida Task Force traces the establishment of higher educational facilities and the new concepts in a Futures Quality Management Laboratory which will meet the needs of a changing world.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES COME TO AEROSPACE

I define the Florida Space Task Force as all those people who were, at one time or another, employed in the Aerospace industry at the Cape or Kennedy Space Center.

In the beginning there was Cape Canaveral and "swamp pay." The space worker was a breed by himself, superimposed on a citrus community. In a remarkably short time they built a pipeline to the moon, at great expense, both in terms of Congressional appropriations and family relationships. The organization and dedication of this task force was unique in the history of mankind.

At the beginning of the space program in Florida, the opportunities for educational advancement in the immediate Cape Canaveral area were non-existent, so education came to the Florida Space Task Force through the Brevard Engineering College, now Florida Institute of Technology, Brevard Junior College, and the Florida Institute for Continuing University Studies.

AEROSPACE HARDWARE APPLIED TO EDUCATION

Synchronous satellites can see nearly half of the Earth's surface. This makes them ideal transmission points for educational and health television programs. The sixth and last Applications Technology Satellite, APTS-F (ATS-6) will serve the entire United States from a point over the Galapagos Islands for

a year, then will be repositioned over Kenya to serve India for a year.

AEROSPACE SOFTWARE MEETS THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE

Mobility and Isolation: As our space effort "powered down," our Task Force shook the sunny sand of Florida from their shoes, often with reluctance, and infiltrated the civilian economy. This forced mobility brought a sense of isolation to some, because the motivation and excitement of the "Man on the Moon" goal were lacking. Also, the approach to quality management was different (for financial reasons it had to be). For many the interruption of their education was another isolating factor, for both Florida and California have built outstanding college systems, both public and private.

MANAGEMENT AND SYNARCHY

There is no denying that management was the glue that held all the pieces together to make mankind's greatest peacetime achievement possible. This management practiced synarchy (ruling together with lots of money attached). The new civilian management must practice synarchy with a different motivation. The new motivation can best be exemplified by the question: "What's in it for me?" And this time it isn't unlimited money; it is personal satisfaction and a sense of the importance of individual effort.

Many changes are in store for management if our economy is to survive. Neither the NASA approach nor the General Motors model will meet the challenges of private funding and high technology. The new management must rely on the motivation of the individual, right down to the assembly line worker, and respect for his ideas of

job and product improvement. We must practice "Hedonistic Management," management for fun, where all benefit and have a sense of satisfaction.

QUALITY CAPABILITIES

All of us were born with a desire to succeed, to look for the pleasant life and, given a reasonable chance, produce good parts instead of scrap. By recognizing these inherent capabilities, and identifying with them, we will go a long way to solve our consumer and product liability problems.

FUTURES CONDITIONAL

As we apply the methods of futurology to our forecasts, several things become evident. There is not one future that is inevitable for any country, company, community or individual; there are many. Let's explore them all, so that we can make an intelligent choice. While trend extrapolation is fast losing its value for business, some trends, such as migration to a warm climate like Florida, remain valid. Genius forecasting, scenarios, and other techniques are no longer the exclusive property of Rand Corporation and other "think tanks."

A SPECIAL OPERATION: BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUTURES QUALITY MANAGEMENT LABORATORY

As the "Citrus Grove with a pipeline to the moon" powered down, the effects on the community were apparent in many areas, such as real estate and education. You are all familiar with the switch to retirement emphasis in real estate and our inflationary prices. A similar evolution has taken place at Brevard Community College with the concept of the Futures Quality Management Laboratory.

At BCC we have adapted to the times and the needs of the student. In the Futures Quality Management Laboratory, we feature team-tutorial instruction in which:

- We never cancel a class.
- We will run a class for one person.

- There are no textbooks.
- There are no tests or regurgitation.
- Progress at your own rate.
- Start anytime.
- Relate your study to your work or personal goals as much as possible.
- Change shifts or relocate with the ability to complete your work.
- Students set their own goals and are only in individual competition with themselves.
- Current practices and future inferences are most important.
- Extensive use of student made video tapes and super-eight films is encouraged.
- A speech compressor provides audio learning at speeds comfortable to each individual.

PROJECTION: QUALITY MANAGEMENT BY EXTENSION

Can this concept go nationwide as an extension program? You are invited to discuss some of the factors which we see on the horizon.

- Approval of a new tuition rate by the legislature would be required. Out-of-state tuition would be a serious obstacle.
- Video cassettes and audio tapes would be the primary means of instruction.
- WATS lines and audio cassettes would be the primary feedback modes.
- A student would be encouraged to obtain all course work locally that he could.
- An annual two or three day seminar would be available, with one required for graduation.